. ♣ DK-US040366



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
Tadashi SAO et al.
Serial No New-Nat'l phase of
PCT/JP2005/009451
International filing date: May 24, 2005

For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND :
AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED :
THEREWITH (As Amended) :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

David L. Tarnoff Reg. No. 32,383

Respectfully submitted,

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036

(202)-293-0444 Dated: 5 -30 -0(ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINES TO POLICE AT A TOTAL 28 (2009) AND ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINES TO POLICE AND ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT AND ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERE

Sheet 2

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Application Number PC U 20/5 09451 Q 1 Q International Date of May 24, 2005 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Tadashi SAO First Named Inventor Group Art Unit (use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name of 1 Attorney Docket Number DK-US040366

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials •	-	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear			
	Cite No.	Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Cited Document				
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	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear				
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁴ (if known)				T ⁶			
		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No			
		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No			
		JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes			
		JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes			
		JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes			
		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes			
					 				
	-								

Examiner Signature	/Mohammad Ali/ (01/28/2009)	Date Considered	01/28/2009

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) . ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <u>www.uspto.gov</u> or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. *Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

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				Application Number	PCT/5P2995/069457	
			CLOSURE	Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO	
				Group Art Unit		
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Examiner Name		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	DK-US040366	

Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, citly and/or country where published.	Translation (Yes or No)
/M.A./		1998 Cooling and Heating Installation Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.	No
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Examiner Signature	/Mohammad Ali/ (01/28/2009)	Date Considered	01/28/2009	
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